

20000609.ba v02\_n920.bam.20000609

>From ???@??? Fri Jun 9 20:01:15 2000 -0500  
Message-Id: <200006100059.e5A0xXj18188@sco.theporch.com>  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 19:59:05 CDT  
From: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 2920

BOATANCHORS Digest 2920

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) RE: Quick and Dirty SP-600 Audio Modifications  
by "Ed Sieb" <sieb@sympatico.ca>
- 2) URM-25D Capacitors & New Email Address  
by Jim Hill <slimjimzz@home.com>
- 3) Audio quality and intelligibility, or appropriate fidelity  
by Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
- 4) BA Literature FS  
by Merz Donald S <merz.ds@mellon.com>
- 5) Re: Matchbox  
by Jderm740@aol.com
- 6) RE: Quick and Dirty SP-600 Audio Modifications  
by "A. B. Bonds" <ab@vuse.vanderbilt.edu>
- 7) ADMINISTRIVIA: No More Reposts  
by listown@jackatak.theporch.com (Mail List Owner)
- 8) FS: AM-427A IF modules for PRC-8,9,&10  
by "Joseph W. Pinner" <kc5ijd@sprintmail.com>
- 9) Re: URM-25D Capacitors & New Email Address  
by Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 10) Looking for AF-67 meter / HX-20 knobs  
by "Russ Schroeder" <w2dyy@rochester.rr.com>
- 11) Re: Matchbox  
by Bill Breshears <buck@cccconline.net>
- 12) HR-20, HX-20 Re: Looking for AF-67 meter / HX-20 knobs  
by chuck grandgent <chuck@k1om.com>
- 13) Re: [MilSurplus] FS: AM-427A IF modules for PRC-8,9,&10  
by William Donzelli <aw288@osfn.org>
- 14) HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen  
by Heinz und Hannelore Breuer <hbreuer@debitel.net>
- 15) Silly Americans - Heavy Radios  
by Mike Kana <cosmo224@execpc.com>
- 16) Re: BIG A NOT PC WITH OT'S  
by Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>

-----  
From: "Ed Sieb" <sieb@sympatico.ca>

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Cc: <gumbear@pacbell.net>  
Subject: RE: Quick and Dirty SP-600 Audio Modifications  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 01:51:38 -0400  
Message-ID: <LOBBJH0L00HLIPLONIAFEECBCPAA.sieb@sympatico.ca>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
        charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I posted Chuck Rippel's mod purely for information purposes,  
and not as an advocate of any particular audio mods philosophy.  
I also didn't realize how contentious this subject is. Controversy  
and discord isn't my intent; just trying to disseminate what I  
hoped was useful info.

Ed

> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Bill Hawkins  
> Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2000 11:34 PM  
> RE: Quick and Dirty SP-600 Audio Modifications  
>  
>  
> WARNING: The following information is presented only to provide  
> some perspective  
> snip<  
> When I first tuned in to r-390@qth.net, it became apparent that  
> Mr. Rippel was an outstanding authority on the R-390A. But there  
> was one small note of discord. He advocated high quality audio  
> snip<  
> Uh-oh, I thought, an audiophoole. This may explain some of the  
> choices for the SP-600 "upgrade". Personally, I do not care to  
> hear the effect of AGC on the position of the voice coil in the  
> magnetic gap of the speaker.  
> snip<  
> I do not wish to open a discussion of audio tom-foolery. Even the  
> otherwise noisy r-390 group has avoided this issue after it became  
> apparent that no one was going to change their mind.  
>  
> Regards,  
> Bill Hawkins  
>  
>

-----  
Message-Id: <4.1.20000608222711.00950d30@mail>  
Date: Thu, 08 Jun 2000 23:02:59 -0700  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
From: Jim Hill <slimjimzz@home.com>  
Subject: URM-25D Capacitors & New Email Address  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Hi:

Note my new email address. It used to be jshillw6ivw@earthlink.net. I'm on high speed cable, so need to change my address. Non-ham's had much trouble with my call, changing the i to a number one, for example, so I stopped using it. Not a good idea with the ham reflectors, I discovered, as some administrators think non-ham calls may be spammers. I have not been able to change my address on the Baswaplist and Vintage Radio reflectors. Anyone know an individual I can contact for Baswaplist? I've discovered personal emails help. I'm making a table with all the pertinent info, so I won't need to jump through hoops again should there be another email change in the future.

I'm starting to work on my AN/URM-25D, and looked inside the audio section. There are a number of brown molded paper capacitors that look like large micas. Are these capacitors considered troublesome, like the black papers in the SP-600? Any other suggestions on problem areas? I have Dallas Lankford's notes from the Hollow State Newsletter.  
73's Jim

-----  
Message-Id: <v03007809b566435843cb@[209.178.167.165]>  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"  
Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2000 23:04:51 -0800  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
From: Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>  
Subject: Audio quality and intelligibility, or appropriate fidelity

Folks,

This discussion is getting a little confused. There are three aspects of audio quality that I think legitimately concern ham operations:

1) Frequency response. Wider bandwidth is more pleasant to listen to but lets in more stuff you don't need just to understand the other guy's call. 300 Hz-3 kHz is the classic response for speech purposes. Flatness and freedom from resonance in whatever range you pick is, however, important.

IF like me you are only an SWL listener, a wider BW is more pleasant,

perhaps 100 Hz-5 kHz. 20-20K will probably only add heterodynes, QRM, hum, and distortion products to what you hear.

2) Transient response, mostly of the loudspeaker. If the speaker rings when a noise spike hits it, the noise is more audible and interferes more with the signal you wanted.

3) Distortion. Most BA rigs have far more of this in the audio section than is good, even for speech intelligibility in the presence of QRM and QRN. Nearly any single ended pentode will make most of 10% at full song.

The most useful mod is to add a little negative feedback, say 6-10 dB, to the audio section. Either you will lose audio gain-usually OK-or you will need to make it up somehow.

This has two benefits. The audio section's distortion will be reduced by the amount of the feedback, and the output impedance will go from being a current source (very high, NO speaker damping at all) to half to one third of the voice coil impedance. This may be the greatest benefit as the speaker will behave MUCH better when fed from a low Z source.

The bandwidth will increase also, but probably not very noticeably. This is good fodder for experimentation. My favorite method, for radios with 4 to 16 ohm outputs, is to put the output transformer secondary in series with the cathode of the output stage. This will usually give about 6 dB feedback and is an easy mod. If you get it backwards, of course, you will have built an oscillator!

I'll write more on this subject if anyone is interested.

Scott Robinson  
spr@earthlink.net

Junque is GOOD for you!

-----  
Message-ID: <20000609130846.20187.qmail@mellon.com>  
From: Merz Donald S <merz.ds@mellon.com>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: BA Literature FS  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 09:04:32 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
charset="ISO-8859-1"

## BA Literature For Sale

RCA HB-3 Tube Handbook. This is the single most comprehensive tube reference that I am aware of. This Handbook is 10 volumes in 5 original RCA binders covering all categories of tubes. The cover page on volume 1 is dated 10/59.

The HB-3 has complete specifications for ALL RCA tubes and in many cases it even has characteristic curves for each tube. The page count is hard to estimate but I'm guessing about 500 pages per binder for a total of 2500 pages of firebottle data. Both binders and pages are in excellent, usable condition.

I doubt that you would find a nicer or more complete HB-3 than this one.

Expensive but worth it: \$160

ARRL Operating An Amateur Radio Station, 1952, 31st edition. Cover creased and

somewhat worn. \$7 PPD

Military TM 11-655 Fundamentals of Telegraphy (Teletypewriter). Overview text

designed for entry-level Teletype technicians. Pretty useful manual for anyone interested in mechanical Teletype. This one is a government re-issue (punched for 3-ring binder). Dated 5 May, 1954. \$13 PPD

Military TM 11-486 Electrical Communication systems Engineering. This Tm is one of the very best references to W.W.II-era military gear that can be had.

TM11-486 is huge--just over 600 pages. It covers Telegraph, including wire line,

Teletype, and Fax as well as radio. The section on radio is actually only 200 pages or so and spends most of its time on antennas and accessories.

But TM 11-486 has a tactical equipment guide that covers everything in use in 1945 in the US military--army, navy and airborne. That is very unusual

and is what makes 11-486 unique. The companion volume, TM 11-487, covers radio much better BUT only army ground radio--no navy or airborne. So, for instance, if you want a documented source that confirms that the Collins-designed TCS radio set was used "primarily on patrol and landing craft" then this is just about the only place to get that information.

This copy

has a torn and loose front cover. It also has water stains and some light water damage. But it is 100% readable and usable. A valuable addition to any military radio enthusiast's reference library. \$65 PPD

Military NAVPERS 94330-3a "Trainee's Guide For Electronic Technician (A-3 Course) R390A/URR Radio Receiver." Dated 9/71, this is volume 3a of what must have been a multi-volume training course. This 35 page boos is punched for 3-ring binding. It consists entirely of fold-out

wiring

and schematic diagrams for the R390A receiver. There is no text--just diagrams. Very classy. Excellent condition. \$19 PPD

Contact Don Merz, N3RHT at merz.ds@mellon.com

-----  
From: Jderm740@aol.com  
Message-ID: <44.4658b19.26724b9b@aol.com>  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 09:31:07 EDT  
Subject: Re: Matchbox  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Folks

I have instructions and schematics fi Johnson Matchboxes and according to my paperwork there are four versions. There is the 250-23 (Vanilla 275 Watt). 250-23-3 (same as above with Directional Coupler indicator built in with DC 250-37 furnished).

Model 250-30 ( 1Kw Vanilla). And a 250-30-3 ( with the same accessories as the 275W, 250-23-3).

Internal PN#s are mostly different. But I think there have been variations not covered by this manual. I have a 275 with a co-ax output for single wire plus a standoff for same. It looks to be factory installed. The relays in both are A/C operated. 115V . If yours is DC operated I suspect the prior owner may have done to make it mobile.

Jack McDermott            Jderm740@aol.com

-----  
Message-Id: <3.0.1.32.20000609094407.00a98900@vuse.vanderbilt.edu>  
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2000 09:44:07 -0500  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
From: "A. B. Bonds" <ab@vuse.vanderbilt.edu>  
Subject: RE: Quick and Dirty SP-600 Audio Modifications  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

At 10:34 PM 6/8/00 -0500, you wrote:

>

>When I first tuned in to r-390@qth.net, it became apparent that  
>Mr. Rippel was an outstanding authority on the R-390A. But there  
>was one small note of discord. He advocated high quality audio

>from the R-390A by connecting an external hi-fi amplifier and  
>speakers to the diode load terminals of the R-390A using, as I  
>recall, a 680 K resistor in series with a one microfarad capacitor.  
>This put the time constant somewhere around one second.  
>  
>Uh-oh, I thought, an audiophooler. This may explain some of the  
>choices for the SP-600 "upgrade". Personally, I do not care to  
>hear the effect of AGC on the position of the voice coil in the  
>magnetic gap of the speaker.  
>  
>Seems to me that we have been across the reasons why communications  
>receivers are not designed for 20-20KHz audio.

Yes, but.....

Some folks (myself included) use their BA's for world band listening. There are huge boomers out of Europe and Asia that have extraordinarily good fidelity (love that belly-dance music from Ankara, 9445), and it is a pleasure to listen to them with a good speaker and as wide a bandwidth as possible. I have upgraded the audio coupling caps in my R390 to 0.1 (as suggested by Chuck) and it made a noticeable improvement. I also use a fairly hi-fi speaker, from Radio Shack. I don't believe this even approaches audio-phoolery, since the cost of these improvements was less than one gold-plated power plug.....

73            A. B. Bonds

-----  
Message-Id: <200006091615.e59GF0406548@jackatak.theporch.com>  
From: listown@jackatak.theporch.com (Mail List Owner)  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: ADMINISTRIVIA: No More Reposts  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 11:15:00 CDT

Gang-

This is a reminder that reposting of For Sale or Wanted items from other internet sources (lists and auctions) is discouraged.... nay prohibited on the BoatAnchors list.

If a BA list member wants to post the item elsewhere and on the BA list, that creates NO problem. What we are trying to avoid are "seen on EBay" or "prime rig on xxx list" type posts... Very few BA members limit their searching to just the BA list!

The problem comes when the poster in the other venue is not asked about the re-post... without the permission of the poster, problems are guaranteed, and I do not have the time, the energy, or the desire

to address and deal with the headaches that re-posting causes... I'll grant you that folks in other venues need to be re-calibrated, but I do NOT want to referee! ;^)

So, henceforth, let's have NO re-posts from other sources referred to the list. Yes, I know this may sound pretty provincial, but those who really care have browsers and know where to look, and those who don't, probably don't....

I do NOT need the aggravation of someone who posts to a newsgroup and then has to fight off the hungry folks from the BA list who want to rearrange his viewpoint or calibrate his selling technique.

ENOUGH! Already... Just don't do it!

--

73

Jack, W4KH/Mobile - - - Mailing List Archiver/Owner - - -  
listown@jackatak.theporch.com - "Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose"  
"Il n'y a que les idiots qui ne changent jamais d'idee"  
Fri Jun 9 11:15:00 CDT 2000

-----  
Message-Id: <200006091748.KAA24551@raven.a001.sprintmail.com>  
Subject: FS: AM-427A IF modules for PRC-8,9,&10  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 13:49:00 -0400  
From: "Joseph W. Pinner" <kc5ijd@sprintmail.com>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

Have a quantity of AM-427A IF amp modules for PRC-8, 9, 10. These are NOS in box. \$ 5.00 plus shipping.

73

Joseph Pinner  
818 Hill Street  
Kingston, TN 37763

KC5IJD / NNNOPHR

-----  
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2000 11:14:11 -0700  
From: Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>  
Subject: Re: URM-25D Capacitors & New Email Address  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Message-id: <0FVW00K92H3NJR@mta5.snfc21.pbi.net>  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1



Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hi Jim;

> I'm starting to work on my AN/URM-25D, and looked inside the audio section.  
> There are a number of brown molded paper capacitors that look like large  
> micas. Are these capacitors considered troublesome, like the black papers  
> in the SP-600? .....

Those caps are papers and get quite leaky. I had to replace them all. Best to do that while you have it apart. There is an electrolytic buried in the RF output section. Check it or replace it to be sure. The ceramic caps elsewhere will be not be a problem. Open the output attenuator and check the resistors at the output end, they may have been burned by some dolt transmitting into the signal generator. Make sure the end of rotation stops are not broken with pieces floating around inside. I am very pleased with the performance of the one I recently restored. Have fun.

Arden Allen KB6NAX Vallejo, CA gumbear@pacbell.net

-----  
Message-ID: <002d01bfd243\$a83a5460\$0b56a118@w2dyy.rochester.rr.com>

From: "Russ Schroeder" <w2dyy@rochester.rr.com>

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Cc: <w2dyy@rochester.rr.com>

Subject: Looking for AF-67 meter / HX-20 knobs

Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 14:51:01 -0400

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative;

boundary="-----\_NextPart\_000\_002A\_01BFD222.20DC6920"

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----\_NextPart\_000\_002A\_01BFD222.20DC6920

Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Hollowstaters,

=20

I picked up restorable Multi-Elmac AF-67 at the Rochester, NY, fest this = last weekend. After getting it home and taking a good look at it, I = found that the meter movement is destroyed. Looks like B+ was shorted = through the meter, judging by the remains. Anyone have a parts radio = kicking around with a meter? Also looking for the modulator driver = transformer (probably will get a replacement from AES)

=20

Also picked up a Heath HX-20 mobile SSB transmitter in very good condition. Looking for the four small chrome knobs (same knobs used on the MT-1 and MR-1 mobile). If anyone has a manual on the HX-20, would be more than pleased to cover copy / shipping costs.

=20

Finally, would anyone have a Heath HR-20 mobile receiver to mate up with the above HX-20 that is "surplus" to your needs.

=20

Thanks,

=20

73 Russ W2DYY

=20

w2dyy@rochester.rr.com

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_002A\_01BFD222.20DC6920

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

```
* * * * *
*      ---REMAINDER OF MESSAGE TRUNCATED---      *
*      This post contains a forbidden message format      *
*      (such as an attached file, a v-card, HTML formatting) *
*      Mail Lists at theporch.com only accept PLAIN TEXT      *
*      If your postings display this message your mail program *
*      is not set to send PLAIN TEXT ONLY and needs adjusting *
* * * * *
```

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_002A\_01BFD222.20DC6920--

-----  
Message-ID: <39429196.2547D2AB@cccconline.net>

Date: Sat, 10 Jun 2000 15:06:01 -0400

From: Bill Breshears <bbuck@cccconline.net>

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

CC: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Subject: Re: Matchbox

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Jderm740@aol.com wrote:

>

> The relays in both are A/C operated. 115V . If yours is DC operated I suspect  
> the prior owner may have done to make it mobile.

>

> Jack McDermott           Jderm740@aol.com

I cannot locate my reference, however I think it said the circuit was wired to delay switching from Transmit to Receive too quickly. I have had two KW Matchboxes and both had Diodes (selium rectifiers) and 16 ufd capacitors in the relay circuit. 110 volts ac was used to activate.

-----  
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2000 15:17:15 -0400  
From: chuck grandgent <chuck@k1om.com>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: HR-20, HX-20 Re: Looking for AF-67 meter / HX-20 knobs  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  
Message-Id: <200006091519703.SM00195@brevia100>

Oh my,  
I've always been wondering if I would ever see any (Heath) HX/HR-20 stuff/discussion here.

Not exactly my first rig (Knight "Star Roamer" and bleak Heath AT-1 TX (?)),  
but my first "good" rig, an Xmas gift from my father, who got it from a ham co-worker.

I think the reason we don't see a lot of these, and probably the reason my father's friend unloaded them, was, that quite kindly, they weren't all that great.  
Billed as a mobile HF pair, they would certainly take up significant space in any automobile.

To be charitable, I loved my pair dearly and they saw a lot of use for several years until they fell by the wayside in favor of I think an SX-101A and DX-100B pairing.

When I got mine I was still a novice ('65 or early '66), and the previous owner had crafted a plug-in to one of the oscillator circuits that allowed for a XTAL to be plugged in. So I spent most of my time I guess 3700-3750 kcs. A little time on 40 meters.

Never got the SSB to work worth a darn, I guess it did work, but power output was pretty minimal for some reason, I didn't care, to this day I pretty much stick to CW.

The HX-20 developed a serious chirp and I got one of dem postcards from either an "00" or an FCC guy, can't remember which.

My solution was, I built a standalong power supply for the 6AU6 VFO tube, for the B+. This was a shoebox-sized affair, with something like a 10 watt resistor across the B+ to load it down and add stability. BOY was it stable after that !

I hope you enjoy yours as much as I did mine, and sorry I don't have the manuals for you, they disappeared many years ago.

73, Chuck, K10M

Russ Schroeder wrote:

>  
> Hollowstaters,  
>  
> Also picked put a Heath HX-20 mobile SSB transmitter in very good condition. Looking for the four small chrome knobs (same knobs used on the MT-1 and MR-1 mobile). If anyone has a manual on the HX-20, would be more the pleased to cover copy / shipping costs.  
>  
> Finally, would anyone have a Heath HR-20 mobile receiver to mate up with the above HX-20 that is "surplus" to your needs.  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> 73 Russ W2DYY  
>  
> w2dyy@rochester.rr.com

-----  
Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 16:54:02 -0400 (EDT)  
From: William Donzelli <aw288@osfn.org>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
cc: "Joseph W. Pinner" <kc5ijd@sprintmail.com>, Military Radio <milsurplus@qth.net>, Army Radios <armyradios@onelist.com>, Boatanchor 1 <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: Re: [MilSurplus] FS: AM-427A IF modules for PRC-8,9,&10  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.1000609165246.24056K-100000@osfn.org>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

> I may have an opportunity to buy a Westinghouse CAY52239, part of  
> TBW-5 ,transmitter. Is this the mate for RBM-5??

Yes, put together, and entire RBM-5 and an entire TBW-5 equals an MM-5.

William Donzelli

aw288@osfn.org

-----  
Message-ID: <3941665D.FD1C2BED@debitel.net>  
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2000 23:49:16 +0200  
From: Heinz und Hannelore Breuer <hbreuer@debitel.net>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi,

the HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen, Germany is ante portas. The HAM RADIO is the largest amateur radio event in Europe with about 20,000 attendees from all over Europe and other parts of the world too and will take place from Thursday, June 22 to Saturday, June 24 at the Messe Friedrichshafen. Friedrichshafen is located on the north shore of beautiful Lake Constance, Switzerland and Austria are just minutes away.

There is a large fleamarket section and I was able to find some nice boatanchors in the past years. If you are interested in military equipment from the former Eastern bloc that is a place to find it.

We created a meeting point for Collins collectors in hall 6, booth H 090 in the fleamarket section. All interested people should come by and say hello. We are pleased to announce that Jay Miller, KK5IM, the author of the new book "A Pictorial History of Collins Radio Amateur Equipment", has agreed to take part and will be present at the booth most of the time. Jay also agreed to make a presentation and show his slides as he did in Dayton last month. Place and time will be announced at the booth.

Hope to see many of you at the Ham Radio.

73

Heinz KM5VT  
CCA European Liaison Officer

-----  
Message-ID: <39418D19.BB1A70A1@execpc.com>  
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2000 19:34:34 -0500  
From: Mike Kana <cosmo224@execpc.com>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: Silly Americans - Heavy Radios  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Greetings All

Just got back from holiday across the pond. Aside from jet lag, I did manage to get a new boatanchor in the mail....

It all started after a night of fierce dancing at the Wag Club near Picadilly Circus in London. Lots of cool old 60's Motown and garage bands mixed into a phat and funky beat until 2:30am.

6:30am.... Oy - I get up and plod through cold and rainy streets to the tube stop for the ride to Liverpool station. The station is pretty empty with the exception of some clubbers making their way home - got on the Great Eastern Line and made my way to Ipswich for a radio rally/car boot sale. I was too wired to sleep so I contented myself to watch the damp country side roll by. It was still pissing rain when I was close to my destination and I heard over my 2 meter radio that the boot sale was canceled but the rally would still go on with a smaller bring and buy sale inside. I put out a call for my friend Sam G4DDK to let him know I had made the journey so he could pick me up and give me a ride to the rally.

Ham fests and radio rallies are kind of neat since you dont really know what kind of goodies are going to show up. Although this was a subset of the planned sale, there was still some interesting items for sale - saw an old ARC 5 receiver (25GBP), a nice TCS6 receiver (60GBP),

and a 'Tail End Charley' test set (whatever that was...). I snatched up a 70's era Racal Squadcal military backpack radio. Of course, the prize of the trip was a Racal RA17L hf shortwave receiver in storage at Sam's QTH. After a nice visit, a drive by the BT research facility, and a viewing of Bawdsey Manor (airbourne radar R&D during WWII), the RA17 and me were dropped off at the Ipswich train station for the trip back to London. Now, comes the fun part - lugging back a 44 kilo (67 pound) tube radio. Lucky for me I brought along a luggage cart which simplified things somewhat but it was still a challenge hauling the #&%!@ heavy beast up and down stairs.

The train ride was simple enough - I jammed the luggage cart to the side of me, removed my backpack (containing the Squadcal) and watched the country roll by again. Finally, I was deposited at Liverpool station - ok, lets roll....

Well, I rolled along until a set of steps leading to the first tube stop. I was feeling my oats at the moment and hefted cart and radio up and walked down the stairs (very slowly).

I consulted my handy tube map and found the right one so I waited at the tube stop. After a few minutes, the tube train (?) arrived and I jumped on, pulling the radio behind me. MIND

THE GAP! Thirty minute ride and I would be at my station.

Wrong!

I got on the tube going in the wrong direction and ended up going away from town. Well, next stop, pull radio off, and wait. And wait. And wait.....

Finally, I make it back to Liverpool station tube stop. deja vu

To my horror, in order to not repeat the same mistake twice, I had to be on the landing on the other side. Simple, take the stairs over. Simple if you are not lugging along a Racal RA17. Ok, haul the thing up, walk a bit, haul the thing down. (Just like Hannibal and the Alps....). This time I'm on the correct tube line. Thirty minutes later and I'm at my final tube stop. Get out, more stairs. sigh....

Daylight again and after a half a mile walk back to the hotel, the death march mercifully ended.

The radio was hooked up to the mains and fired up - it came to life and I listened to some shortwave for a few minutes.

I called up the shipping company to arrange pickup, fainted from the sticker shock, and bid my new toy farewell for its journey across the sea.

Today, there was a large wooden crate waiting for me at the door. Now this is the way to ship a radio - heavy duty wooden crate and lots of foam padding with the radio secure in the middle. No rattles, bent metal, or damage. Cool! The secret was to contact the fine arts shipping group - they were use to shipping antiques all over the world. Since the RA17 was a work of art, the fine arts shipping group was the logical choice. The radio is patiently waiting for me to clear some space so I can plug it in. The front panel is in excellent shape - one knob and the meter are not original but that can be taken care of. Then comes the usual cap replacement, re-alignment, etc... Details to follow!

73 de AA9IL

Mike

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Date: Fri, 9 Jun 2000 19:54:51 -0500 (CDT)  
From: Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>  
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>  
Subject: Re: BIG A NOT PC WITH OT'S  
Message-ID: <Pine.0SF.3.96.1000609193600.29889D-1000000@admin.aurora.edu>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Well, I took some time today to go thru my SP-600 and check a few things out. I had not noticed any obvious audio distortion in mine. I fed in a 99% modulated S-9 signal and it looked real clean at the input to the detector so I did not mess with V11.

I then proceeded to check the audio stages. While I didn't actually use a distortion meter to check the amp out, again, a sine wave looked very clean on the scope. However, I do see a bit of distortion coming out of the detector itself. I will look at that again one of these days.

I have not been satisfied with the audio response, so I decided to do something about that. The audio response is -3dB at 11,000 and 122 Hz. I was going to try for a bit of bass boost. I added a hipass filter in a negative feedback arrangement between the output and the wiper of the volume control. I wound up with the -3dB point now being at 13K and 70 Hz. The overall sound sounds more pleasing but I would like to get still more low end.

I notice that the SP-600 seems to lack audio gain in the first place. Could this be (partly anyway) because the 1st audio stage is a lower mu triode than is usually used? (I had previously increased the coupling cap sizes and bypassed the 12AU7 cathode).

Interestingly, the original speaker I had been using was a Motorola mobile speaker. That caused a rise of over 10dB around 3.8 kHz. A "good" speaker only shows a resonance around 180 Hz.

"Nostalgia is a thing of the past"

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